

Amendments to the Claims:

1 -14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A software-based tool programmable according to a program for ~~configuring or designing a project~~, the tool comprising:

a storage unit for storing a control program;
an operating unit for inputting operator commands;
a display; and

a computer which when programmed according to the program is configured ~~configurable~~ to provide, in conjunction with the display, a graphic user interface having a first navigation area, a second navigation area, and a data area, wherein:

the first navigation area is an area, in which sub-tasks and work steps associated with designing the a project are ~~can be~~ simultaneously displayed in a hierarchically organized manner, and

the second navigation area is an area, in which individual work steps associated with designing the project are ~~can be~~ simultaneously displayed in their processing sequence, and wherein:

(i) a required work step can be selected in the first navigation area and/or in the second navigation area in order to perform the required work step; and

(ii) activities of configuring or designing according to one or more of the subtasks or work steps are ~~can be~~ performed in the data area through the user interface to select a data option associated with a selected subtask or work step in order to ~~configure or design the project or an~~ associated installation.

16. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the first navigation area is an area with a tree structure.

17. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the first navigation area provides an overview of the project in a tree structure.

18. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 16, wherein the first navigation area provides an overview of the project in a tree structure.

19. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed as an alphanumeric display.

20. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 16, wherein elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed as an alphanumeric display.

21. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 17, wherein elements displayed in the first navigation area are displayed as an alphanumeric display.

22. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form.

23. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 16, wherein elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form.

24. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 17, wherein elements displayed in the second navigation area are each displayed in alphanumeric and graphic form.

25. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein once a required work step has been completed, command elements can be selected to display, input or change data associated with processing said work step.

26. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein once the required work step has been completed, an alphanumeric display in the first navigation area corresponding to the completed work step and an alphanumeric and graphic display in the second navigation area corresponding to the completed work step are visually marked.

27. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein the tool is adapted for configuring or designing an installation or technical composition.

28. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 22, wherein the data displayed in the data area is displayed in the form of a list containing selectable list elements.

29. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 28, wherein a button is assigned to each selectable list element, which can be clicked on to superimpose a window corresponding to an assistant for a selected element, the window containing help information, or prompting inputting of parameters, relating to configuring or designing .

30. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 15, wherein status indicators, provided in each of the navigation areas, provide information about whether or not a user has completed a work step.

31. (previously presented) The tool according to Claim 30, wherein the status indicators further contain information about whether or not a data selection made in a work step has resulted in a non-permitted status.

32. (currently amended) A method for ~~configuring or~~ designing an installation, the method comprising:

providing a graphic user interface displayed on a display, the graphic user interface having at least two navigation areas and a data area, a first navigation area being an area in which sub-tasks and work steps associated with designing the installation ~~a project~~ can be simultaneously displayed in a hierarchically organized manner, and a second navigation area being an area in which individual work steps associated with designing the installation which a user performs through the graphical user interface are simultaneously displayed in their processing sequence, and the data area being operable with the user interface to provide selectable options for performing one of the subtasks or work steps;

the user interface enabling: selection and performance of individual work steps in the method to ~~configure or~~ design the installation by navigating in the first or in the second navigation area; and enabling a user to perform the work steps in part by:

(i) visually marking display elements associated with a selected work step in the first and in the second navigation area; and

(ii) selecting a data option associated with the selected work step in the data area in order to ~~configure or~~ design the installation.

33. (previously presented) A digital storage medium comprising a control program adapted for interacting with a computer, an operator unit, and a display for performing the method according to Claim 32.